

Kids on the Job

Laura Palen and her co-worker, Laura Darcy, both bring their sons to the medium-sized supermarket where they work. Since they each take care of both children while working, Palen happened to be photographed with her co-worker's son, James.

See pages 10 and 11.



Photo by Irene Kaur

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THE NOE VALLEY VOICE

Wells Fargo Home Free, Acme Still on Deck

By Steve Steinberg

A new Noe Valley bank received the go-ahead last month to begin operation, while a 24th Street restaurant was still waiting to see if it would have to move its outdoors indoors.

At a Sept. 16 hearing, the San Francisco Planning Commission approved plans by Wells Fargo Bank to open a limited service branch at 4021 24th St. (between Noe and Castro). The branch will include two automated tellers and a "personal banker," whose role remains tentative.

The Wells Fargo proposal won despite opposition from the Noe Valley Merchants Association, which contended that the bank would violate the area's commercial growth restrictions. The group also expressed concern that the mini-bank would fulfill the city's "quota" for banks on 24th Street without providing full service.

The merchants were joined by the Friends of Noe Valley, who belatedly announced formal opposition to the bank even though one of its most active members, Al Lanier, is chief architect of the project. The Friends cited the possibility of increased parking problems as their chief objection.

Another neighborhood organization, the East & West of Castro Street Improvement Club, had given its support to the bank.

According to Larry Zanolini, vice president and district manager for Wells Fargo, the hearing went very smoothly for the bank. He said most opposition centered not on Wells Fargo, but on whether the neighborhood's financial institutions would be grouped too close together. There are currently two savings and loans and one bank within the two blocks of 24th Street bounded by Sanchez and Castro Streets.

Under special use provisions, the quota or "threshold" for banks in the area

was met even before Wells Fargo applied for permission to open a branch. However, the planning commission has the discretion to make exceptions and allow additional banks or savings and loans.

The decision will be beneficial to at least one Noe Valley resident, Elsie Young. Young's Star Greeting Cards shop occupied the proposed Wells Fargo site until she retired this summer. According to Zanolini, Young and her husband, Gus, will be allowed to remain in their apartment at the rear of the storefront.

Zanolini said Wells Fargo hoped to open the branch later this year or early next year.

He believes Wells Fargo can be "a very positive influence in the community."

At a hearing held the same day, the planning commission delayed a decision on the fate of the Acme Cafe's outdoor

patio. The commission granted the postponement to allow for talks between the restaurant's owner and neighbors.

The Acme's patio has been under attack from several nearby residents, who claim the popular deck creates noise, deprives them of their privacy, and causes security problems.

On Sept. 28, attorneys for Joel Coopersmith, owner of the restaurant, met with Acme neighbors and members of the Friends of Noe Valley to try to settle grievances.

The lawyers presented plans to build a high back fence to better protect the privacy of neighbors. They also said arrangements had been made to put up a gate between the Acme building and the Joshua Simon boutique next door as a security measure.

Many of the neighbors and Friends were unwilling to compromise with Coopersmith over the Acme deck. Several said he had not shown "good faith" in the past in remedying their complaints. Some neighbors demanded that the deck simply be shut down. One

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—Nov. 2 Election— Some Props & Supes du Jour

By Corey Michaels

Nancy Walker vs. Wendy Nelder. Uncle Miltie vs. the Burton Machine. Leonid Brezhnev's nuclear stockpile vs. America's. A nickel vs. litterbugs. Gays and the cops.

Without a presidential election to arouse voters, off-year politicking usually evokes as much excitement as an uphill snail race. But someone has to win, and there are just enough local anomalies and curiosities this year to get San Franciscans to the polls Nov. 2 to watch the finish.

Will Supervisor Wendy Nelder, who bills herself as a fiscal conservative and a social moderate, become the next president of the board? Or will it be Nancy Walker, a feminist and one of the board's most progressive members.

Five of the 11 supervisorial seats are being contested this year, and the highest vote-getter automatically becomes board president in 1983. In two separate recent polls—one commissioned by Walker, the other by board member Richard Hongisto—Nelder had a surprisingly strong lead over Walker, as well as over third-running Hongisto.

Beyond the fight for the presidency, there appears to be little suspense. A total of 25 candidates are in the race, but polls expect the return of all five incumbents—Walker, Hongisto, Nelder, Doris Ward and Lee Dolson.

One has to look no further than Propositions A, I and J to verify the axiom that politics makes strange bedfellows. The city's gay community and police department have had little love for each other, and at times their dislike has been bitter and violent. Now the two sides have made political peace, at least for this election.

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An Anti-Nuclear Celebration Could Make Your Whole Day

By Jeff Kaliss

When the Reverend Carl Smith tapped Kit Cameron last spring to run an art gallery at the Noe Valley Ministry, he also planted an interesting notion in her head. He told her about a project conceived by Alan Gussow, a New York artist friend of Smith's wife. Disturbed by the negative images associated with the nuclear age, Gussow had decided to create monuments to the living, not the dead. His alternative to Forest Lawn, called a "LifeYard," was established on the Hudson River early this year.

This concept blossomed in Cameron's creative consciousness while she and Smith led a Noe Valley contingent in San Francisco's massive anti-war, anti-nuclear protest last June. Marching along the

city streets, Cameron was impressed by the color and variety of banners hoisted by the various groups.

Soon after, she began to organize San Francisco's own LifeYard, centered around a collection of huge banners specially prepared for display on the Ministry walls.

The LifeYard will be dedicated with songs and sayings at 4 p.m. on Sunday, Oct. 10, and will remain in place through Nov. 4, "maybe helping to make a difference on Election Day," Cameron says.

In getting the word out to fellow artists and other would-be participants, Cameron specified only the size of the banners (about six feet long) and the theme:

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• Wells Fargo •

Continued from Page 1

suggested that the patio area be cut back and the reclaimed space filled with trees and foliage.

Neighbors also worried that their security needs would not be met by the proposed gate and asked that access to the patio from the new Noe Valley Mall be closed off. They also complained that the Acme had caused an increase in rats, roaches and garbage.

Coopersmith's attorneys said they would meet with their client to discuss possible solutions to the issues that had been raised.

Coopersmith had said previously that he felt some of his neighbors' complaints were valid and that he was prepared to alleviate them. He offered to attempt to reduce noise coming from the Acme, but added that he considered this problem the responsibility of all businesses on the street since it emanated from the entire block.

Coopersmith said most of the complaints arose earlier this year when he discovered he lacked the necessary permit to operate the patio. He said he originally thought that the contractor who built the deck back in 1973 had secured city permission. When he realized he was mistaken, he began the approval process all over again, only to find that his neighbors wanted the patio closed down.

The Acme owner is also seeking a permit to use the second-story space at the rear of the restaurant as an office. In addition, he is planning to return the front, upper stories of the Acme building to residential use. Part of the upstairs currently functions as an exercise studio.

A new hearing on the patio question is scheduled before the planning commission early this month.

Coopersmith said he had received a great deal of support for the patio from customers, including letters and a petition signed by 1,500 people. □

• Supes du Jour •

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Police officers have agreed not to oppose Prop. A, which would set up a civilian office to investigate complaints against the police. Such a review body has long been favored by gays and the minority community, but stridently opposed by officers.

In exchange for their neutrality on Prop. A, the gay community has come out in support of Props. I and J, which would give police officers increased salary and pension benefits.

In the big name arena, State Sen. Milton Marks, a Democrat dressed in Republican clothing, is providing the first "just-might-win" challenge to Rep. Philip Burton, a legitimate Democrat who has spent the past 18 years in Washington representing San Francisco's fifth district. Marks' complaint is that Burton has taken the district for granted and lost touch with local priorities. The essence of Burton's campaign is that, when push comes to shove, his influence as one of the most powerful men in the House gets the district whatever it needs.

Among the state initiatives, the most controversial are handgun registration, a freeze on nuclear arms, and a nickel deposit on all bottles and aluminum drinking cans.

Supporters contend that the freeze initiative, Prop. 12, would lead to an end to "further testing, production, and installation of nuclear weapons" in both Russia and America. But opponents say Russia currently is engaged in the largest nuclear buildup in its history and that it would be "dangerous to trust a Brezhnev-type freeze."

The handgun initiative, Prop. 15, would require the registration of all handguns. It would provide a mandatory six-month jail term for anyone found in public possession of a concealed handgun and a mandatory one year for black market trafficking in handguns.

Supporters say the measure will reduce crime and save lives, noting that

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2,000 people were killed last year by handguns. Opponents, including munitions and firearms companies that have poured millions into their campaign, say California already has adequate gun legislation and that registration might cost \$250 million in administration expenses.

The third controversial initiative, Prop. 11, would require a five cent deposit on bottles and cans of beer and soft drinks. Supporters say similar laws adopted in nine other states have resulted in large reductions in litter and solid waste. The measure has been opposed by the beer and soft drink industry, worried that prices will go up and sales will plummet. □

No Piece of Cake

Dessert Shop Gains Bittersweet Victory

By Gary Sabo

City ordinances are only human. They need time to stretch and test their limbs before they can run smoothly. And, of course, there are growing pains.

A "pain," however, would be too tame a word to describe the clash between Kit Koenig and Sally Wassink and the city's two-year-old special use ordinance.

Last spring, the two women signed a five-year lease on the property at 1328 Castro St., just south of 24th Street, with plans to turn the Victorian into a dessert shop. They soon found themselves enveloped in a paper chase littered with misinformation and misdirection. Their excursion into the halls of city bureaucracy revealed a ludicrous lack of interdepartmental communication and almost gave them their unjust desserts.

Koenig and Wassink, armed with a course in small business administration and five years of mounting ambition, first brought their plans to the Department of Public Health, reasoning that it would be the shop's chief contact with City Hall. After being rushed through forms and fees, they were handed a list of specific streets on which any new restaurant would require a special use permit.

Though their property was indeed in Noe Valley's special use district, the hand-out didn't list their block of Castro Street. "It doesn't look like you have to worry," said the clerk.

When Koenig and Wassink consulted other officials in the health department, they were met with vague assurances or pleas of ignorance. One health inspector didn't think their shop was in the special use district at all; another hedged the subject for weeks.

"They all were very nice," Koenig said. "They just didn't know anything."

Unaware of the fuse burning on this bureaucratic bomb, the owners forged on, scraping, sanding, nailing and painting their shop into reality. The litter vanished from their front stoop, and the porch steps were used less frequently as a night post for neighborhood mischief.

When a building inspector gave them over-the-phone approval of their plans, they could see the light up ahead. They both quit their jobs and began a costly plumbing overhaul. Just a few more weeks, they told themselves.

Things Get Sticky

In mid-July the bomb exploded. At

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Photo by Irene Kane

Fully recovered from their summer-long ordeal with the permit process, Kit Koenig (left) and Sally Wassink plan to open their shop, Carson-York Desserts, in early December.

the insistence of a concerned neighbor, the women called the city planning department and learned that, yes, they were in a special district and boy was it already bloated with restaurants. A hearing would be required. The planning commission would probably rule against them.

Surprisingly, this wasn't the worst news. When an inspector reviewed their case, he discovered there were eight steps leading up to the dining area. In the eyes of city planning, the steps put the restaurant in a second-story retail classification, not permitted in Noe Valley. That the garage was now the first floor was beside the point.

They pleaded. How could a garage be the first floor? Something in the building was zoned commercially. If not the proposed floor, what then?

City planning threw up its proverbial hands. Rules were rules. Maybe the garage was zoned commercially.

Had it not been for the encouragement of Noe Valley Merchants Association President Tom Crane, this catch-22 situation might have brought Koenig and Wassink to total despair. "Don't take one person's word for it," he told them. "Call the next higher department."

Koenig made a last ditch call to the mayor's office and was referred to Robert Feldman, who co-authored the special use ordinance. "Wait," he said, and a moment later, "second-story retail is permitted in your area."

They were elated, but wary enough to ask if they could see for themselves. "Sure," Feldman said. "Come on down. I'll read to you from page 27."

As they walked away from his office at 450 McAllister St., they reread the ordinance. Sure enough, second story was permitted. Except...page 27 covered Eureka Valley. Page 48, which covered Noe Valley, grimly forbade retail on the second floor.

Feldman was away from his desk when they called back, but an aide listened to their lengthy tale. "Wait," he said, "a first story is defined as the floor above a garage or basement."

"Are you sure?"

"Call the building inspector to make sure."

The building inspector, when asked to

define basement, cellar and story, replied, "That's quite a lot of reading." But, in this case, a garage did not a first floor make.

How Did Bakers of Paris Do It?

After this emotional rollercoaster ride, hope again prevailed. Now the two women had only to compile a detailed application for their permit, a process that took them three weeks, and wait for the hearing.

In the interlude, they reached out for community support. It was forthcoming, from the Noe Valley Merchants Association, but the Friends of Noe Valley, looking at the already overcrowded restaurant situation, couldn't support their proposal. The East & West of Castro Improvement Club flatly opposed their opening and wrote a letter to the planning commission saying so.

As Koenig and Wassink braced themselves for the approaching hearing, rumors floated down 24th Street that another pastry shop, Bakers of Paris, planned to open a shop nearby but needed no special permit. Crane verified it. It seems the Parisians weren't baking on the premises, so a permit was not required.

"We would have been glad to do that [bake off the premises]," Koenig said later. "But nobody ever specified anything. They just said that anything having to do with food needs a permit. Now we were finding out that there were ways to get around the ordinance."

Too cynical now to ask a direct question, Koenig and Wassink called up city planning and pretended they were just beginners: "If we wanted to open a shop that sold desserts baked off the premises, could we do it in Noe Valley?"

"No."

"No?"

"Absolutely not."

But how had Bakers of Paris managed to escape the permit process?

Bakers of Paris architect Yvan Gubler explained that because the shop would not serve beverages, set tables, or bake goodies on the premises, it was not classified as a restaurant and could therefore slip past the ordinance.

By this time our heroines were weary of asking questions. They only wanted to

go to their planning commission hearing and get it over with. "We learned that if four out of six people gave us the same answer, it might just be correct."

Commissioners Merciful

Finally, Koenig stood before the commission in the stuffy air of Room 252 at City Hall. This was as close as she was going to get to realizing her fantasy of having all the bureaucrats in the same room at the same time ("Would you please tell so-and-so what you told me, because he says something else..."). Her nerves were occasionally betrayed by a tremor in her voice as she recounted their misadventure to the unusually attentive commissioners.

"We would like to stress to you," she said, "that from the beginning of this project we have tried to do things the right way. We tried (and thought we had) covered every single base, but we were misled by nearly every government department we contacted."

The commission was sympathetic.

"It's obvious they tried to get the right information," said Commissioner Susan Berman, who admitted she had been prepared to vote against the application before hearing Koenig's speech. "It seems awfully hard to do that in the face of what they've been through."

Commissioner Joe Klein was uncertain about the second-story issue, and spent five minutes trying to figure out the building code as planner Robert Passmore read from the specifications. "I can understand how it can get very confusing," said Klein, "with all the whereas's and but's and if's and however's all through the explanation."

Passmore expressed his apologies about the lack of communication between city departments. "We are continuing to try to [improve procedures]. But the special use district has a particularly hard set of ordinances to coordinate with other departments."

When all was said and done, the commission acknowledged the extenuating circumstances of Koenig and Wassink's case and voted to approve their application.

In the hall afterwards, the two women burst into tears. "It's going to be so cute!" they cried in relief. The months of assault from regulations, coming out of nowhere like space creatures on a video game, were over. "Carson-York Desserts" had at last won permission to be born. □

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Old J-Cars Back to the Barn, 48-Q Buses Go to the Beach

By Nathan Salant

Have you ever wasted 45 minutes of a sunny Sunday waiting to ride a noisy, hot and smelly—yet oddly appealing—streetcar?

If your answer is yes, you are not alone. San Franciscans have expressed their uniqueness through mass transportation since 1912, when the Municipal Railway became the first public-owned transit system in the United States.

But the next weekend you're out there killing time at 24th and Church, don't expect to see one of those antiquated "green torpedoes" lumbering towards you. Muni discontinued use of the familiar green or orange streetcars on Sept. 19. Called PCCs for the President's Conference Committee that designed them in the 1930s, the cars had operated on San Francisco streets continuously since 1948.

For the time being, they will be replaced by orange and white motor coaches. The buses will provide weekend service on all streetcar lines while Muni renovates Forest Hill Station in preparation for the start of weekend Metro service on Nov. 20.

"We're at a phase in the construction now where we're going to have to stop all streetcar service to maximize the amount of time we can spend in there [Forest Hill Station] without disruption," said Luther Freeman, a Muni transit planner. Muni is installing new elevators, better lighting and raising the platforms.

"It's difficult to have them [the streetcars] come through there when we're working," Freeman said.

The J and N lines don't use that station during their normal weekend operation, but all streetcars must pass through Forest Hill Station to get to the streetcar

barn at Geneva and San Jose Avenues.

In other bus business, Muni has made a change in the 48-line that serves Noe Valley. Since Sept. 22, 48-Quintara riders have been able to travel all the way to Quintara and 48th Avenue in the Sunset District. This extension from West Portal Station, available on weekdays from 6 to 9 a.m. and 2 to 7 p.m., was planned when the line was introduced last January and will be made fulltime if ridership warrants it.

Sept. 22 also marked the passing of the old cable car system, which was shut down for a complete rebuilding operation that is expected to last 20 months.

In place of the two Powell Street cable car lines, Muni has created the 58-Leavenworth bus line (from Powell and Market to Taylor and Beach) and increased the frequency of the 30-Stockton and 41-Union lines. Riders of the late California Street cable car can avail themselves of the extension of the 83-Pacific to Battery and increased service on the 83 and the I-California.

San Francisco is the last city in the United States with a streetcar line on its main street. Above-ground rail transit has been available on Market Street since 1860, 52 years before the creation of Muni.

Market Street Railway Company was the first of several private companies to operate transit on Market Street, offering horse-drawn rail cars in July, 1860. The Market Street Cable Railway built a cable car service from the Ferry Building to Mission and 28th that began operation in 1891.

United Railways, a conglomeration of most of the private street railways prior to 1902, put up overhead electric wires on Market Street three weeks after the 1906 earthquake and fire destroyed the cable system.

United Railways was taken over by the Market Street Railway in 1921, and Muni purchased the entire system in 1944. At that time, Muni already operated the J, K, L, M and N streetcar lines, and had two additional streetcar lines, A

and B, on Geary, which were discontinued in 1956.

Muni will save 50 of the retired PCC cars for its proposed F line on Market Street to City Hall, and E line along the Embarcadero. □



Florence Holub and Rev. Carl Smith display the banner she made for the "LifeYard," a show of over 40 banners to be dedicated Sunday, Oct. 10, 4 p.m., at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St.

Anti-Nuclear

Continued from Page 1

whatever is worth celebrating and saving from the threat of war.

Some 50 persons, many of them Noe Valleyites (including the local Girl Scout troop), have been cutting, sewing, and painting for the past four months. One banner will feature sea images encountered on the maker's recent sailing trip. Another is decorated with trees and based around the Biblical quote from Deuteronomy, "Therefore choose life!" A third will express vital abstract images in braided paper.

Many artists are finding that the LifeYard project is exposing them to new media, including silk, collage, and unstretched canvas. Some are also experiencing collective artistic effort for the first time.

Reddy Lieb, who normally works in stained glass, feared she wouldn't have enough time to meet the project's deadline, so she joined forces with two of her friends. The three first thought they should include death in their image, and conceived of a figure that would be skeletal from the waist down. Abandoning this as "too gruesome and not hopeful enough," they reversed direction and settled on the image of "a woman giving birth to a world."

Says Lieb, "I've never worked on

something this big or this political before. I feel really strong making this statement."

A third LifeYard is opening this month in Santa Cruz, featuring about 50 outdoor sculptures coordinated by Nicki Marx, who has also initiated a National LifeYard Project and produced a workbook. The advantages of Noe Valley's format, says Cameron, are that it can be relocated to other galleries and "when there's another peace march, we can reuse the banners."

The San Francisco LifeYard Dedication on Sunday will include the performance of a song, composed by local musician Warner Jepson, at 4 p.m., and an open poetry reading led by Noe Valley Poetry Series coordinator Diane Frank, beginning at 7:30 p.m.

The Noe Valley Cinema will kick off the LifeYard weekend with a series of short anti-war films on Friday, Oct. 8, at 8 p.m., and Constance Demby will perform "inner space" music on Saturday, Oct. 9, at 8:15 p.m. Sufi dancing will be celebrated on Monday, Oct. 11, at 8 p.m.

Cameron hopes, along with Marx, that LifeYards will spring up elsewhere across the country, penetrating the heart of Middle America and proving her "trickle-up theory of social revolution." After all, she points out, "it's like Mom and apple pie: who can be against life?" She can be reached for more information and guidance at 821-4117. □

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All Hail All Hallows

Look out for ghouls and ghosties the last weekend in October, when San Francisco's premier holiday comes upon us once again.

Pint-size spooks are invited to the second annual Halloween Festival of Goblins at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., on Sunday, Oct. 30. Last year's multitude of wizards and Wookies almost overwhelmed party volunteers with numbers and enthusiasm.

Coordinator Barbara Hopkins urges parents to join in and help make this year's event an even greater success. You can reach her at 285-2648.

The festival will start with a costume parade originating at 24th and Castro. Masked revelers are invited to strut their stuff down 24th Street to the ministry for games, movies and refreshments from 3 to 5 p.m. There is no charge for any of the activities, which include the scarifying Haunted House, directed this year by Marilyn Lucas. Want to be a creepy vampire or rattle a few chains? Give Marilyn a call at 282-4562.

If your tots aren't satiated by all the festival activity, trot them down to Jamestown Community Center, at 23rd and Fair Oaks Streets, for the ninth annual Haunted House. Each Halloween the Haunted House gets more elaborate, as volunteers—many of whom return year after year to design a room—provide increasingly imaginative ideas for its creation.

The House is proving so popular with neighborhood children that admission has been raised this year from 25 to 50 cents, to cut down on the number of two-time visitors.

Grown-up goblins have their chance for a costumed fling on Saturday, Oct. 30, with a sock hop at the Ministry. Dancing to platters from the '50s and live music by the Noe Valley Jazz Band begins at 8 p.m. Brush up your bunny hop for this lively event, which costs a piddling \$4.

If none of these activities tickles your fancy, you can always hop a broom over the hill to Castro Street.

Boards' Bigger Digs

Community Boards, San Francisco's unique dispute resolution organization, has moved its Noe-Eureka Valley office from the Noe Valley Ministry to larger quarters at 1195 Church St. at 24th. Hours are 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. weekdays, and you can call 821-2470 anytime and leave a message.

The program, which has offices in six neighborhoods in the city, trains com-

SHORT TAKES



Jean Amos wears top quality running shoes (New Balance 660's), which will help her lead the neighborhood's most active and visible organization: Friends of Noe Valley.

Photo by Charles Kennard

Best Friends Elect Top Dogs

With a little reshuffling, some minor restructuring, and a bunch of wisecracks, the Friends of Noe Valley ushered in a new slate of officers last month and got right down to the business of identifying priority issues for their 1982-83 term of office.

The neighborhood organization, at a Sept. 9 meeting at the Noe Valley Library, chose Jean Amos, former co-chair of the Friends' Planning Committee, to take the helm for a year. She will replace Miriam Blaustein, who is stepping down from the top spot to assist Lucia Edwards with membership.

Blaustein proudly noted that 102 new Friends were added during her term as president, increasing the total roll to about 250. She also lauded the organization as "an exemplary neighborhood group in the eyes of the city planning department, because we've been so active." Blaustein was lauded in turn and presented with the gift of a bobbie's whistle and a photographic portrait of "Persons' Best Friends."

Other officers voted in by "white ballot" included Vice President Vaughn Hopkins, Secretary Melinda Breitmeyer, and Treasurer Barbara Holman. Jeff Kaliss, John Knox and Carl Smith were designated delegates-at-large, and Mary Mitchell will represent the Friends on the citywide Coalition of San Francisco Neighborhoods.

The chair of several committees—Planning, Recreation and Parks, Library and Membership—will be shared by two people, with one vote between them at Steering Committee meetings. Mark Cohen and Claire Pilcher, now functioning as advisers to the Planning Committee, will each have a Steering Committee vote, as will the chairs of the other standing committees (Newsletter, Transportation and Education).

Among the priorities voiced by the assembled were neighborhood safety, library outreach, sports, tree planting, and greater involvement with youth.

Planned special events include a Halloween gala at the Noe Valley Ministry, a candidates' night, and a party to celebrate the eventual electrification of the 24-Divisadero line. Friends and would-be Friends interested in these and other activities should contact Blaustein at 648-0992.

Carrying on with other business, the Friends continued to live up to their reputation as "the pitbull of the neighborhood," as Pilcher puts it. The Steering Committee went on record as opposed to locating a mini-branch of Wells Fargo Bank at the former site of Star Greeting Cards on 24th Street, but remained open to such a development on Castro or Church Streets.

The group also decided to abide by the special use district guidelines for restaurants in the neighborhood and voted to oppose a dessert shop proposed for 1328 Castro St.

The Friends' Planning Committee, under Barbara Martin and Kirk Stines, promised to streamline its policy with regard to the growing number of such appeals for commercial expansion.

But first, the Friends will have to deal with the expansion of the zone around their waists, due to the voluminous quantities of vegetables, viands and vinous beverages consumed at their annual library deck barbeque on Sept. 12. Ubiquitous congressional candidate Milton Marks showed up, but didn't have time to stay because he hadn't been elected yet. President Amos, however, having already assumed office, felt free to demonstrate her other talents as a gourmand and guitarist. □

munity residents in communication and problem resolution. These volunteers then use their skills to help neighbors resolve many of the problems of daily life: roommate friction, barking dogs, landlord-tenant disputes.

Calling Community Boards has major advantages over calling a lawyer or the police: it's free, the dispute hearings are held right in the neighborhood, and a hearing can be convened quickly.

The program was started in 1977 in the Visitacion Valley neighborhood, and the Noe-Eureka office, headed by Noe Valley resident Sandra Fox, was opened in 1981. Fox was recently hired as area coordinator, having served as community member organizer in the Noe office since April, 1981.

Ibsen's Cool, But Shakespeare Rules

The Zebra Theatre collective is looking for young San Francisco playwrights who want to earn their stripes. Apprentice dramatists, aged 9 to 16, can enter Zebra's first annual Young Playwright's Awards competition with a work on the theme "Folklore from Around the World." Deadline for submissions to the contest is Dec. 31, 1982.

The first prize winning play will be performed during an awards ceremony, and will be included in the company's 1983 summer-fall season. Second and third prize winners will receive a cassette recording of professional actors reading their script.

Zebra Theatre is a touring group of Bay Area actors who have collectively produced drama for youth since 1976. They can furnish you with rules and other information about the competition if you call 921-8533 or 824-3028 or write them at P.O. Box 31423, San Francisco, CA 94131.

Red Tape Blues

If your last employer told you to take your unemployment benefits and shove them, or you suffer from red tape phobia and are hesitant to apply for the benefits you have earned, contact the Unemployment Project of the National Lawyers Guild. They offer free information and advice on how to get, and keep, unemployment insurance and, in addition, will represent you, *gratis*, should you appeal a denial of benefits.

Trained counselors are available to help, either in person at their office (558 Capp St.) or by phone (647-3140).



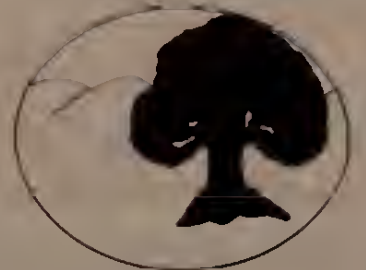
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—The Asphalt Jumpshot— No Net Loss for Happy Hoopsters

By Cliff Lundberg

"Ow!"
 "Huh?"
 "Wait!"
 "What?"
 "No basket, he called foul..."
 "No, I didn't!"
 "I heard you!"
 "I said 'ow'!"
 "Well, don't say 'ow' like that, because..."
 "Well, tell him not to hit me!"
 "Hey, I was shoved into you, by your own teammate!"
 "Well, I wasn't calling anything. It's just whatsizface over there is hearing things."
 "So the basket's good!"
 (chorus) "Bullshit!"
 "He can't stop the play with a joke call!"
 "The play was over by then, you were beat like crazy!"
 "Choose it!"
 "Who had the last one?"
 "Is this for the ball or the basket?"
 "Who cares, c'mon..."
 "Now what are they talking about?"
 "Look, I'll do-or-die from here for the basket and then we'll choose for the ball, odd-or-even, okay?"
 "What if you make it?"
 "Your ball then."
 "Okay."
 (chorus) "C'mon, get on with it!"

The do-or-die from the top of the key swishes. The inbound pass is intercepted under the basket and put in on a layup and the game is over. Groans, wails, whoops, and hyena-like cackles resound on the court; from the rising benchwarmers, a solid cheer.

You too can participate in these dramatic situations. For over a decade the Noe Valley Basketball Association has held open full court games Saturday mornings at James Lick schoolyard at 25th and Castro. People of all ages, sexes, and skill levels either choose sides or take winners with the five who've been waiting the longest.

Games start at 8 a.m. or even earlier.



Photo by Irene Kane

Why so early? Nobody knows exactly. In the summer, the weather is nice and windless before 10 or 11, and an early start leaves one free for the rest of the day. But it is awfully early. Certain regulars only show when they've been up all night partying.

Usually two full court games (to 24 points) are going on until 10 or 11 a.m. With a little promotion, attendance could be boosted so that three games are in progress until noon or even later. Anyone could come anytime and quickly get in a game.

There are four full courts, and there's no problem about sharing facilities with youngsters and others doing their own things.

James Lick has recently patched up the biggest cracks in the surface, cutting down on the bad hops and sprained ankles, but since Proposition 13 the school hasn't put up nets. The NVBA does, though, and occasionally asks a 25-cent donation to the net fund.

All you die-hard dribblers should go out and play! □

Women Keep Rackin' Up the Victories

Pictured above: Beth Stinnett of "Finnegan's Finest," making one of those shots that boosted the spirits of her teammates. It's the team's first year of competition in the Women's League of the San Francisco Tavern Pool Association, "C" Division, and according to Beth, they're "taking the town by storm."

At last count, Beth and team members Claudia Deyton (captain), Marie Schleich, Kaye Schleich, Debby Aarens and Laura Davies, had won 52 out of 75 games. The second place team was way behind with 39 wins out of 75 attempts. No other team in the league had such a strong win record.

The daytime careers of the "Finest" include actress, fiction writer, bartender, nurse, computer programmer and insurance writer. Three of the six learned to play at Finnegan's.

Marie says she's always enjoyed playing games, but shooting pool gives her a sense of equality within a "male bar scene." Beth learned to play because she appreciated the social spirit of a bar. Since she's not a big drinker, "playing pool gives me something to do. Pool is more classy than video games." Claudia notes a difference between male and female players: men tend to "whale away or go for impossible shots rather than play 'safe.'"

The women have beaten each of the other four teams in their division and must beat them all again to reach their 10-0 goal. The "Finest" have their eye on the championship, and it looks like it's in their pocket.

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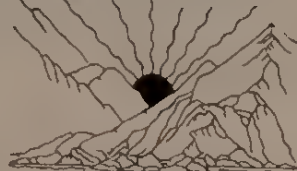
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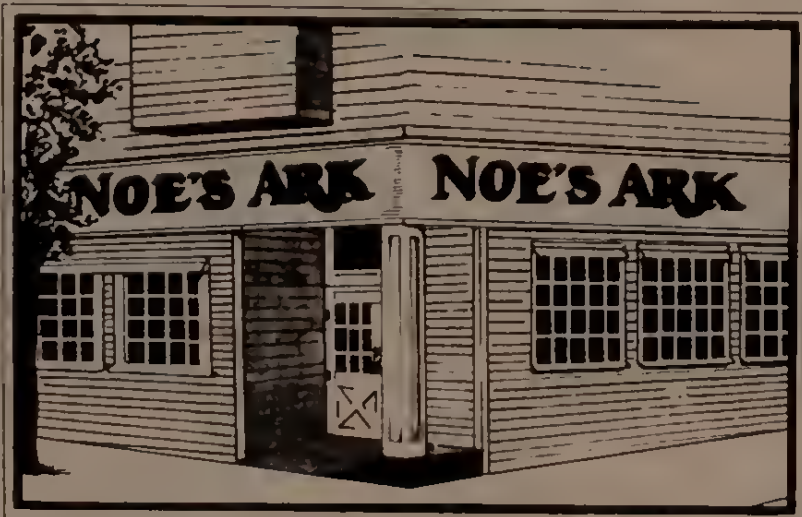
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Small Press' Glück: A Story-telling Poet

By Larry Beresford

One of the strengths of the poetry of Robert Glück is its emphasis on narrative—telling a story. Glück, a neighborhood resident and the cultural events coordinator at Small Press Traffic, places himself in the new movement of narrative poetry that includes many black, Chicano, women, gay and political poets. Rather than projecting the existential alienation found in much of modern impressionistic poetry, Glück's poems are full of connections—to events, family, lovers and society.

Glück thinks that writing narrative poetry is a political act, since it implies that people can take power over their own lives. The women's movement and other political movements have discovered that "history and their own lives are the same thing," he says. "Take the anti-nuclear movement. People gave up on the nuclear issue with a sense that things couldn't be changed—assuming there would be no future. Now that people are getting active in this issue, they can imagine things being different."

Glück's poems are often characterized by a blunt humor—a variation on traditional American Jewish humor. Political and gay themes appear, along with events and characters from his family, usually with some surprising twist in the narrative or point of view. These story poems also play on the relationship between writer and reader.

One of Glück's early works is *Andy* (Panjandrum, 1973), a series of poems written in his twenties and dedicated to a former lover. Although Glück is a hit reluctant to talk about it today, *Andy* is a warm and charming book. More recent is *Family Poems* (Black Star Series, 1979), about his family's relationships and patterns.

Two new books soon to be available are *Elements of a Coffee Service* (Grey Fox), a book of stories; and *La Fontaine* (Black Star Series), a book of loose translations and creative re-writings of the work of the 17th century French writer. *La Fontaine* is co-authored with Bruce Boone, another neighborhood writer.

Glück came to Noe Valley from Cleveland, by way of Los Angeles, with "lots of Hungarians" in his ancestry. He arrived in the neighborhood in 1976 about the same time Small Press Traffic was moving into its home at 3841B 24th St.

Small Press Traffic is a non-profit bookstore that specializes in poetry, fiction and literary criticism published by small, independent publishers. "Small presses" are defined not just by size, says store manager Denise Kastan, but also by their interest in producing quality work not necessarily destined for com-



Robert Glück divides his world of words between Small Press Traffic, the non-profit outlet for creative writers on 24th Street, and his own poetry, which openly addresses political issues while snaring readers with its narrative style.

mercial success. The store takes books on consignment, paying the publisher only after the book is sold.

Small Press Traffic also provides a home for poetry readings and writing workshops, and last year it sponsored a conference on writing and politics, held at the Noe Valley Ministry. Foundation grants help pay for overhead and salaries.

"It's part of the landscape of writing in San Francisco," Glück says about the store. "It's a nexus for publishing, reading, writing and listening to poetry. It's where the local poets sell their books." It is also one of the best sources in the country for poetry published by independent presses.

Glück's store activities range from

Learning to Write/Greek Myth

Heracles wrestles Antaeus to the ground; Antaeus springs up restored because the Earth is his mother. Her blackbirds echo in pure transparency of sound to high nightingales who echo back with pungent honey. She spills brooks from upper rocks to water the bay. Zeus (of the broad clouds) is Heracles' father. Heracles tames or slaughters the symbolic livestock of the local religions of Greece, Italy, Spain and Asia Minor; he kills Hippolyta; Hera hates him; Zeus punishes him: Heracles, you will become a woman's slave, condemned to dress like a woman, spin and weave.

Heracles and Antaeus are well-matched (the flower of lovely youth—dazzling unmixed light) but Heracles has mastered the new game plan, mobility. He lifts Antaeus away from the ground, one arm around Antaeus' ass, the other circling his waist—Antaeus' groin presses with its full weight against Heracles' expanding chest. Antaeus arcs backward, one hand grapples with Heracles' head, the other rests tenderly on the hero's shoulder.

As I render it, the struggle has an erotic charge. There's not much difference between Heracles and a hoar focusing; that's the kind of face a victor is likely to wear. I'm sorry Antaeus—

His attention grows slack; he's an object rather than a subject. He's learning how confining the body is now that the borders of his own are broken and invaded. Ribs, spine, pelvis: each graduated second he asks: can I suffer this much pain and not die? Finally a dark smudge comes out of his mouth, his last breath.

Learning to Write/Cavafy

A man loved a man and desired him the first week the first two months and also seven years. When his lover became ill he desired translucence and the small marks of blood. In health he desired health.

—Robert Glück

leading workshops and arranging poetry readings to building bookshelves. The workshops are held at the store Saturdays at 1 p.m. (for older writers—self-selected) and Mondays at 8 p.m. Both are free and open, and include writers of varying expertise, who bring their work for the group to critique. For more information, contact Small Press Traffic, 285-8394. □

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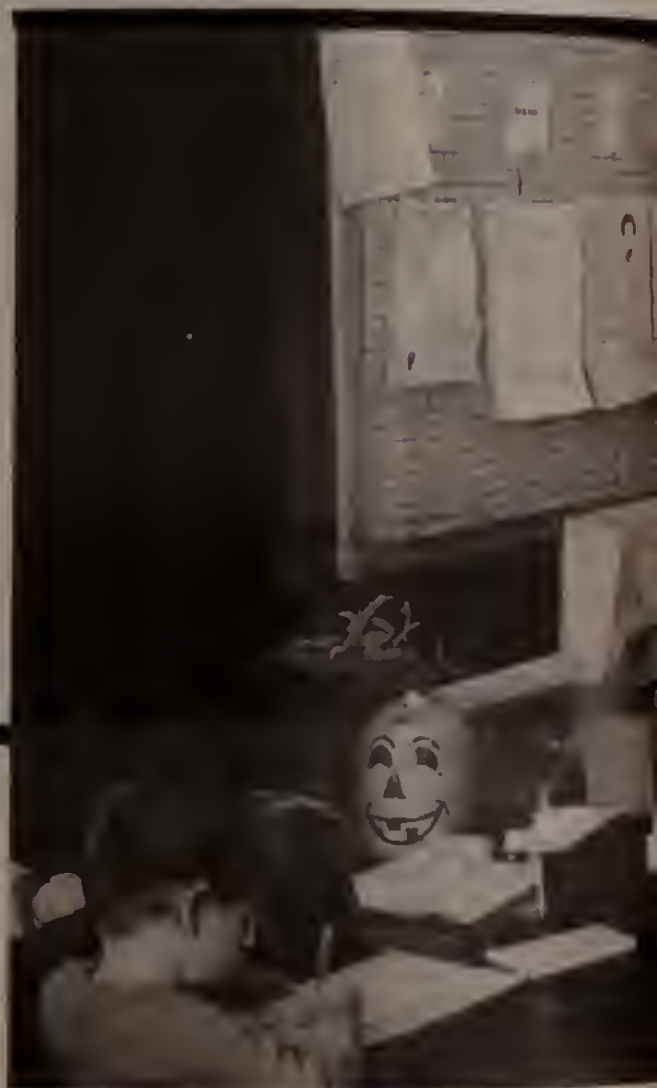
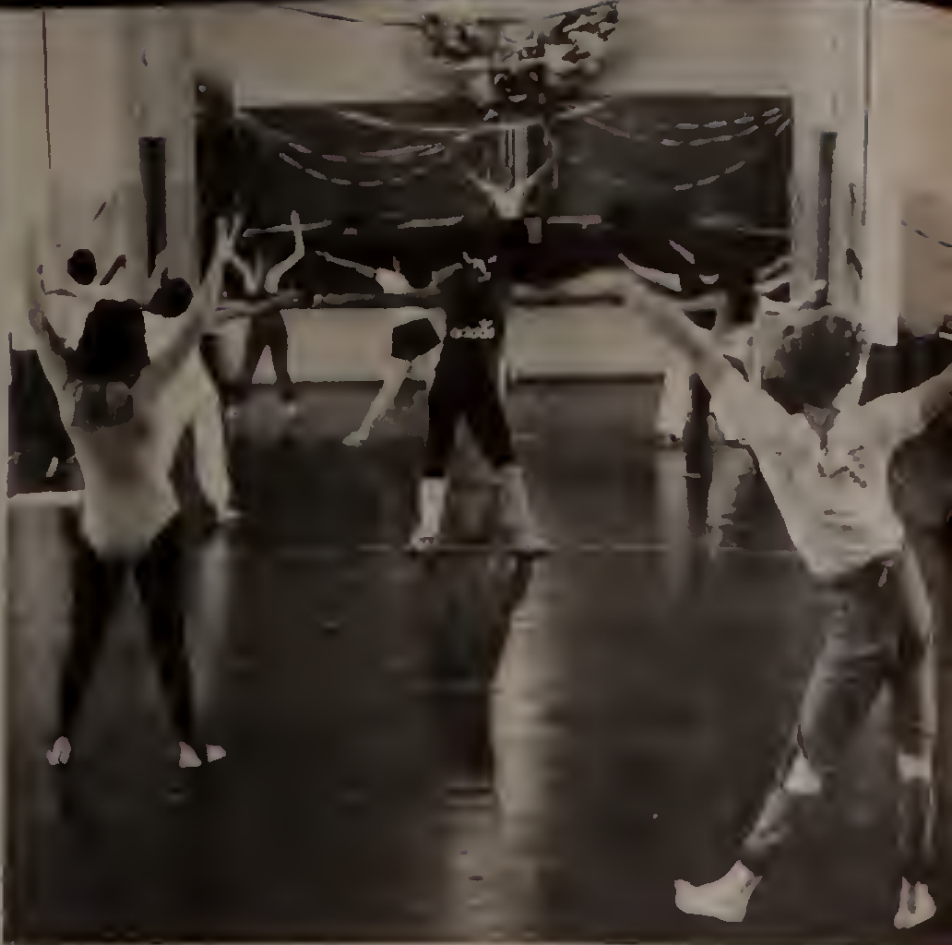
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Gertrude Hodges is an executive who used to be a "hard-hitting workaholic." Son Brion has added a dimension of calmness to her life.



Rosouro Kenyon and daughter Erin work on individual projects in a teen employment program.



Photographer Tom Copi, who works out of his home when not on assignment, shares the more durable tools of his trade and some discarded transparencies with his son, Jonah.

Kids on

Between 1950 and 1980, participation in the labor force among mothers with children under 18 grew from 18 to 54 percent. With such statistics one wonders who takes care of the children?

There is approximately one licensed day care position for every eight children whose parents seek care. Parents are therefore forced to develop enormous persistence and creativity in finding solutions to their childcare needs.

Some working parents are the main caretakers of their young children. They've opted to work at home with the kids nearby or to take their children to



Dancers Alan Ebothner and Page Perry (stage) bring their daughter Erin to Rhythm and Motion aerobic exercise classes. While one of them teaches, the other observes, dances and cares for baby.



Opera singer Stanley Wexler can practice arias while caring for his son, Django. He often feels a tug of war between work and parenting.



Lynn Zimmerman spends the school year teaching third grade in Mendocinu Cuanty. Her summer garlic-braiding business supplements her 10-month salary and allows a more relaxed routine with her son Toto.

the Job

the work site with them. Working at home can be very convenient and at the same time open up a world of distractions. Taking children to the job site can only work in some types of jobs, with udequate space, easy-going babies, and the cooperative attitude of emplyers and co-workers.

This photu series by Voice photugrapher Irene Kane takes a look ut children and purents as "work partners." It's part of a ungoing photo project which will ulso document other alternatives for parents, such as babysitters, empluyer-related day cure, cooperative playgroups, job sharing, flextime and voucher systems.

Photos by Irene Kane

Community Crosstalk

From Books Plus To Books Minus

Here I am, over a month after the final closing of Books Plus, a negative statistic in our culture, a casualty of the recession and high interest rates, a direct result of Reaganomics. For one who has been scripted to enjoy certain expectations in our society, I have now been presented with the unique opportunity to examine a vast array of new and intense feelings.

I've been very lucky.

Twelve years ago, Paul Garvey and I started a bookstore in Noe Valley, on 24th Street. We began with no experience and very little money—\$8,000. By the time we paid our first and last months' rent, our security deposit, insurance, and a Board of Equalization bond, by the time we built a sign and painted some fixtures and bought a cash register and planted a tree on the sidewalk, we could afford only a few books. We faced all of them out on our shelves.

We deliberated for weeks over what to call our bookstore, asking friends and relatives for their opinions. We changed our minds, back and forth, several times. At last, we settled on Books Plus.

What a burden that *Plus* has been.

At first, the *Plus* would be art objects. For over seven years, we displayed paintings, photography, silk screen reproductions, pottery, blown glass, sculpture, ceramics, macrame, weavings and any other hanging art we could squeeze into every square inch of blank wall.

We also sponsored poetry readings.

Editor's Note: Community Crosstalk is an open forum for Voice readers. Submissions must be mailed by the 15th of the month preceding the month of issue. The Voice reserves the right to edit material received. (Please try to limit your copy to 750 words.) Our address is 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco, CA 94114.

We allowed our back room to be used for classes—yoga, macrame, and silk screen. We had a reception for the Bay Area Council on Soviet Jewry after one of their members returned from a trip to the Soviet Union. We had a party for the winners of a junior high school Muni billboard contest, displaying the winning billboards on the walls above our shelves. We encouraged the use of our shop over and over again.

During all this time, the books themselves, like creatures almost alive, multiplied. We truly became keepers of the word. What profound joy! What pleasure! And, at the same time, what an awesome responsibility it was to have the works of Faulkner, Joyce, Freud, Kipling, Sendak and thousands of others depend on the likes of us for their very existence.

Our business grew along with the number of books. We found that we had to use our back room for storage, not for classes. People wanted to buy books during the poetry readings. We built more shelves. They covered the bare walls, displacing the art. Our shop became crowded. We allowed the *Books* part of our name, the part that paid the rent and our salaries and the utility bills, to eventually force out the poetry readings and the classes and the art work.

In the beginning, we also served free coffee.

There were people who thought it was the coffee pot that made Books Plus the communications center of the neighbor-

hood. But that was untrue. It was the combination of our personalities, Paul's and mine, and it was the absolute right time and place. It was also, most importantly, our unexpressed belief that when you take from your community, you must give back in some way—with energy, time or money.

From the beginning, the old power structure of Noe Valley seemed to be threatened by our very existence. They tried to stop us from opening. We fought back and won. And in that battle, the newer residents of the neighborhood coalesced. For years after that, the old and new elements of Noe Valley struggled for power. And we were usually right in the center of that struggle.

The issues we fought over were manifestations of the stresses and strains in the neighborhood—a drug rehabilitation center, a mental health clinic, street fairs, commercial licensing and zoning.

With our families and friends, we were involved in the founding and nurturing of the Noe Valley Nursery School, Corbett Community School (now known as the San Francisco Community School), and the Friends of Noe Valley. One or both of us always participated in the Noe Valley Merchants Association. We gave back to our community as best we could.

Suppose," I once asked Paul, towards the end, "no one had ever stolen a book from us. And no one had ever given us a bad check. And suppose we had gotten the same discount from the publishers as our competition, the national bookstore chains. Would we have made it? Would we have survived?"

He thought for a few moments. "Probably," he answered.

There is no way to measure exactly what or how much was taken from us over the last 12 years, but I do know that it was substantial. In a country where bad checks and stolen credit cards have become so prevalent that we don't feel offended at their use, in a world where we lie about the ages of our kids in order to have them ride on airplanes without paying, in a world where we even teach our children to lie about their own ages in order to get into zoos or museums free, in a society where we have changed the word for stealing to ripping-off to make thievery more palatable, how could we possibly expect people not to steal books from us?

However, can I blame the individuals who walked into my stores any more than the publishers in my own industry? Through the American Booksellers Association and the Northern California Booksellers Association, we recently discovered that many publishers have been secretly selling books to the large chains and discounters for less money. This means that individual stores of those large chains and discounters have been making more on each of these books than we, the independent booksellers, have. Between seven and nine percent more. Without a doubt, this practice has hastened the demise of Books Plus.

That is not to say we didn't make any

mistakes of our own. We did. The biggest mistake of all, the one that wounded us mortally, was the decision to open up a second store. We followed the American Dream. But we did it at exactly the wrong time and at exactly the wrong place.

We chose a location on Market Street, near the Civic Center. We chose that spot for several reasons. First of all, there were no other bookstores nearby. Secondly, the area had been rehabilitated after the BART construction. The Civic Light Opera had recently remodeled and moved into the Orpheum Theater, a half block from our store. Two new office buildings had just been completed, bringing the working population within a three-block radius of our store to 30,000 people.

We were also near a BART station. Brooks Hall, two relatively large hotels, Fox Plaza, the Merchandise Mart, the soon to be completed Davies Hall, the Opera House, the Main Library, all of the other government buildings of the Civic Center, and various other buildings, both large and small. And, finally, there were six proposed multi-story buildings (also within a three-block radius), all due for imminent construction.

It seemed like the ideal location for a bookstore so we signed a lease for 10 years.

From the instant we signed that lease, things went wrong. Our landlord, who had promised that we could open our doors on Aug. 1, did not complete the remodeling until the end of November. Opening on Dec. 4 caused us to lose much of the business we should have done during our first Christmas season, a time when bookstores normally do almost one-fourth of their annual business.

From the instant we signed that lease, interest rates went to historic highs. Besides being a crippling drain on our own cash and profits because of the loans we needed to finance the new store, the high interest rate put all of the proposed buildings in the area into limbo.

From the instant we signed that lease, other things happened that worked against us, things that were completely out of our control. The Civic Light Opera closed down in San Francisco, and the Orpheum Theater was dark for a season. The air controllers' strike kept thousands of tourists away from San Francisco, adversely affecting the two hotels directly across the street from us.

Finally, what was most devastating, the recession hit everyone, rich and poor alike. The same economic fear and uncertainty, whether real or imagined, began to grip every worker in America. The result was that book sales remained static for us, during a time of continuing high inflation.

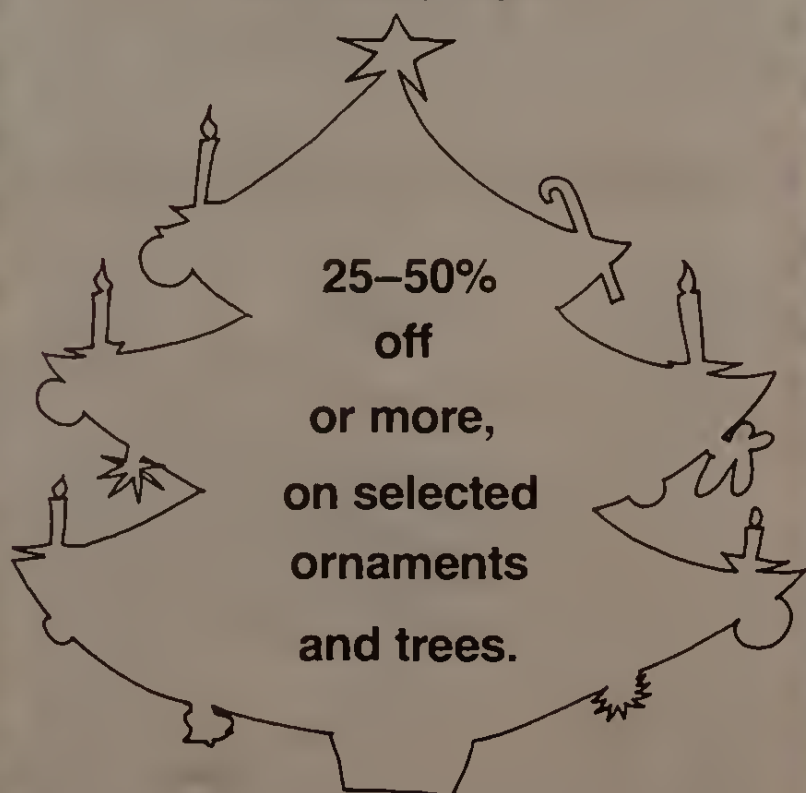
We thought that being near a BART station would be positive, but we were wrong. In reality, it was extremely negative. We were competing with suburban bookstores, mostly national chains. The people who worked around us would buy a paperback now and then for the BART ride to the East Bay, but they saved their serious book buying for suburban malls and shopping centers.

Continued on Page 13

"Merry Christmas"

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Community Crosstalk

How to Police the Police

Remember the San Francisco 49ers' victory celebrations in the streets? Most of the city's major intersections were clogged with exhilarated people. Remember also the many reports of police harassment and abusive measures of crowd control? Would you feel safe to join in the celebrations the next time around? Or are you aware of the steady stream of police misconduct complaints coming out of Haight Street, the Fillmore, the Mission, Castro and Polk Streets?

As the 49ers celebration showed, sometimes it doesn't matter who you are or what you are. You may still become a victim of police harassment.

What's the solution? While you may think it's a difficult job to be a police officer and that the majority of officers are fair and beyond reproach, what can you do when you feel you've experienced or witnessed a clear case of police harassment or abuse?

Under the present system, citizens can lodge complaints with the Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) of the police department for review and possible investigation. If an investigation occurs, it is conducted by an appointed police officer. The results are next reviewed by a lieutenant and a captain. They recommend action to the chief of police. The complainant is then notified of the outcome of the investigation.

The present system employs police officers to investigate police officers. For many civilian observers it's difficult to believe that the police can be free of bias in this role. In 1980, 301 complaints of police misconduct were registered with the IAB. Not one was upheld.

After last January's "Super Bowl Riot," hundreds of citizens accused police of misconduct. Of the 79 formal complaints that were made, 49 alleged that the police had used unnecessary force. And of those same 79 complaints, 17 were ultimately sustained. However, only three members of the police department were disciplined as a result.

What alternative method of investigation is there? A coalition of community interests has proposed an amendment to the City Charter. The Board of Supervisors has placed this amendment, Proposition A, on the ballot for voters to consider in November.

If approved, the amendment will require the formation of an Office of Citizen Complaints (OCC) within the police department. It will require the police commission to appoint a civilian director of the office. The director in turn will appoint qualified, professional investigators from civil service lists. These investigators will receive and examine allegations of police misconduct. Part-time hearing officers may also be appointed. The OCC will recommend disciplinary measures to the chief of police when such an action is warranted. The OCC will prepare monthly summaries of complaints received. Policy changes for the police department will also be recommended as appropriate.

Proposition A would not establish a civilian review board. The police commission retains that role. The proposition would establish civilian investigation of complaints and the possibility of hearings before civilian review officers. This distinction is more than just semantics. The police commission, appointed by the mayor, retains its power and authority. Ultimately, decisions will be made, as they are now, by the chief of police and the police commission.

Amitai Schwartz, a staff attorney for the ACLU and a longtime proponent of civilian investigation, explains, "In some respects it's a compromise. We are operating within the realm of the possible, given the city's politics today."

Can the OCC make a difference? The use of professionally-trained civilians as investigators, rather than police officers, would presumably reduce the likelihood of bias. There would be no concern over future promotions, and there would not be the reluctance to examine a colleague's job performance. Civilians would be less defensive about police conduct in general and possibly more sensitive to community concerns.

"This is a moderate measure," acknowledges Dick Pabich, coordinator of the Proposition A campaign. "It won't solve all the problems." The OCC would only be able to recommend action after an investigation; it has no enforcement power. The recommendations would be submitted to the chief of police.

One appealing aspect of Proposition A is that the OCC would be more cost-effective than the present system. Written into the amendment itself is the following directive: "The annual appropriations for all costs of the office of citizen complaints shall not exceed sixty percent of the costs incurred by the police department internal affairs bureau for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1981, adjusted annually thereafter for inflation."

Thus, a 40 percent savings would be required by law. Furthermore, Supervisor Harry Britt's office estimates that the OCC would reduce the cost of investigations by over \$350,000.

This isn't the first time an Office of Civilian Complaints has appeared. Fernando Cosio, a member of Proposition A's Steering Committee, recounts some

of the recent history: "The Latino community has been having problems for a number of years with complaints registered with the police department. In 1976 the major complaints came out of the Mission... When hearings were held that summer about this issue, hundreds of people showed up. These people were victims, parents, and residents. They were all testifying why the Office of Civilian Complaints was needed."

After the hearings were held, the police commission recommended that a pilot OCC program be established. The Board of Supervisors, however, twice refused to appropriate money for the proposal, in 1977 and 1978. In late 1978 the police commission recommended funds for civilian hearing officers. The appropriation was approved by the supervisors in 1979, but the new (and current) chief of police, Cornelius Murphy, refused to spend the money.

Supervisor Harry Britt, in 1981, introduced a resolution to have the board establish the OCC. By this time the new police commission, appointed by Mayor Feinstein, was opposed to the effort. The city attorney ruled that the board did not have the power to establish the OCC in the absence of a change in the city charter. As a result, in May of this year the Board of Supervisors voted to submit the OCC to the people at the November election as an initiative measure.

On the current prospects for the proposition, Cosio says, "Now it's a whole different situation. Now most of the supervisors are for the OCC. The problem of police harassment has now emerged among the middle class as well."

Those interested in working on the campaign should contact Dick Pabich at 863-5560.

—Michael Helquist

• Books Plus •

Continued from Page 12

All of these reasons, from thievery to unfair competition to economic problems that were beyond our control, combined to keep the second shop of Books Plus from becoming profitable. We tried everything that we could think of to make it succeed. We put in remainders, sidelines and magazines; we tried sales and discounting. But it was too late. Nothing worked. At a certain point, we knew that we had to close the Civic Center store.

For eight months now, we have tried to sublease that store. It is still in a good area, maybe not for books, but certainly for other things. However, it has been during the worst time, during the height of the Reagan recession. We have tried four different real estate companies. And still, the store remains empty.

We found that the Civic Center store caused a tremendous drain of assets from our Noe Valley store. Once our resources began to dwindle, the end moved inexorably forward. We gave up the coffee pot. We prepared for an infusion of money. People in Noe Valley—friends, customers, and even some of our employees—were willing to invest in Books Plus. As long as the store on Market Street remained empty, we could not take that money. We waited through those long, interminable eight months, trying with

our very wills to get that store rented. That was the worst of times. We promised our creditors over and over that we would try to pay them. One by one, they stopped believing us; they stopped shipping us books. Our inventory declined. Our business fell off because we didn't have the newest and latest books. Finally, we ran out of time with our creditors. Things became clear and inevitable.

On June 8, 1982, we filed bankruptcy.

Over this past year, I've learned some important things. I've learned what the final *Plus* of our name was. It was probably that all along. The people. Paul Garvey, family, friends, most of our employees, publisher salespeople, customers, strangers—so many have been so supportive, so loyal, wished us so well, offered so much of themselves, wanted so badly to help. But the circumstances prevented us from actively receiving all of that good will, all of that immense caring. I mourn along with you all. I thank you.

—Larry Alperstein

Editor's Note: Fortunately, Larry Alperstein didn't wind up on the welfare rolls. He is currently manager of Cover to Cover Booksellers, now occupying Books Plus' old storefront on 24th Street.

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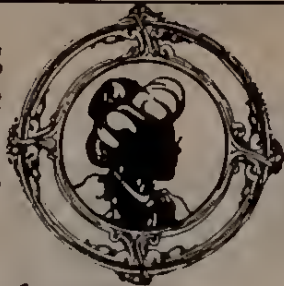
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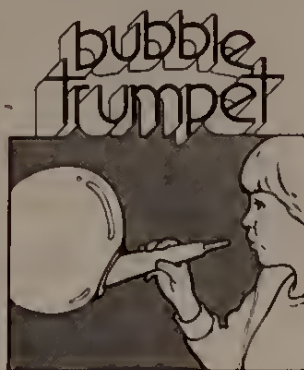
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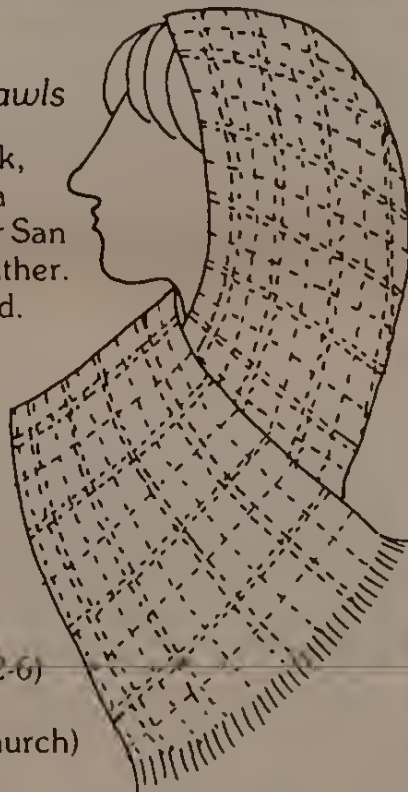
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Eureka Rising From the Ashes

By Peter Magnani

The Eureka Theatre, which was lost to the community for a year when its home in Trinity Methodist Church at 16th and Market burned down, is back. After enduring its 10th season in borrowed space at Fort Mason, the award-winning company has found a new home at the Margaret Jenkins Dance Studio at 15th and Mission Streets.

The Eureka has signed a two-year lease on the 200-seat house, and plans to produce four main-stage plays beginning in January. Highlighting the scaled-down season will be the world premiere of a play about the assassinations of George Moscone and Harvey Milk, which the Eureka has commissioned Obie Award-winning playwright Emily Mann to write. Mann is the author of *Still Life*, a searing play about Vietnam that the Eureka produced last season.

Rounding out the company's new season will be the English language premiere of *Neither Fish Nor Fowl* by German playwright Franz Xaver Kroetz, the Bay Area premiere of Amlyn Gray's *How I Got That Story*, and a satire on contemporary art and culture by Howard Schuman entitled *Censored Scenes From King Kong*. □

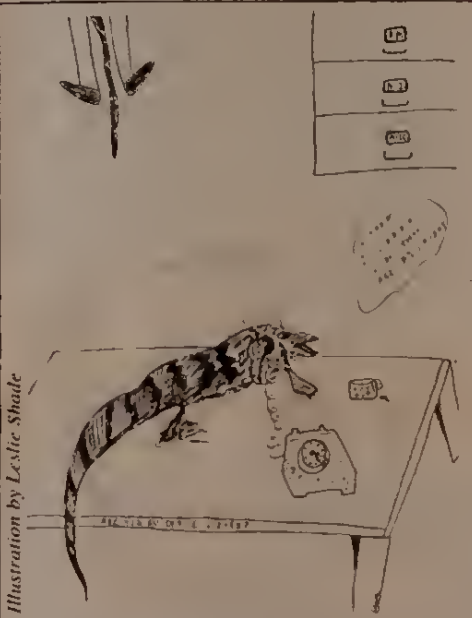


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REVIEW

Criminal Justice: Guilty as Charged

The Blind Eagle: Stories from the Courtroom
By Harriet Ziskin
Illustrated by Jimi Evins
Early Stages Press
179 pages, \$6.95

Reviewed by Lynn Ragers

"The system operates on a presumption of guilt," said the prosecutor. "The police and the DA's office screen out the innocent before they are ever charged. The business of the courts is to dispose of criminals. The prosecutor kind of controls the system by seeing where there are courtrooms free and then by deciding whether to charge a crime as a felony or as a misdemeanor, whether to send the defendant to superior or municipal court."

"But if everyone presumes the defendant is guilty, what's the point of a trial?" I had asked.

"The trial is a symbolic gesture," the prosecutor replied.

Author Harriet Ziskin makes it abundantly clear by the cases she describes in *The Blind Eagle* that the prosecutor's reply, "the trial is a symbolic gesture," is indeed true. Justice doesn't come out of this system, only a show of justice.

Ziskin, who was a court reporter for many years at the Alameda County Courthouse, uses the cases she witnessed to demonstrate that whether the defendant is well-known or unknown, he or she is only a cog in the wheel, a bit player in the game.

When she writes about Huey Newton ("Marvin Washington" in the book), she shows that even though he's more capable of putting up a defense than the poor Willie Munroe's and Franklin Butler's she also writes about, Newton's fate still rests in the rules of the game. During his trial, he was a helpless spectator, while the real players—the defenders, the prosecutors and the judge—batted the ball around the court and the jury tried fitfully to keep up. Even the injured

party, Billings the tailor, again becomes a victim when he is jailed for refusing to give evidence against his alleged attacker.

The crazy thing is that neither the prosecution nor the defense really cares about guilt or innocence. What they care about is winning. "It's a war," one lawyer says. "You have to measure each step you take because what may be to your advantage here may get you killed further down the line."

This isn't an easy book to read because the subject is one we all wish would go away. None of us wants to face the truth about our "system of justice." But Ziskin presents her evidence in such a compelling way that we are drawn in before we know it. She doesn't just lay out the facts, she gives the personalities of the people involved.

From the judges to the mothers of the defendants, we see real people, not just statistics, in these cases, and we begin to care about them. Caring makes us realize that we can't let the state continue to find scapegoats for society's ills and rely on punishment to solve problems. By doing so, Ziskin says, we only "obscure the causes and perpetuate crime. We set powerless people against one another, sapping their energy, killing their dreams of a humane society where there wouldn't be such powerlessness and fear, or the need for crime."

P.S. Anyone who's thinking of joining the Army or who knows anyone who's thinking of joining the Army, should read Early Stages Press' other new release, *Letters to Nanette*. In it, Noe Valley's own Bob Biderman (see September *Voice*) gives a vivid description of the horrors of the armed services and convinces me anyway that no matter how bad the economy gets, it's better to take your chances on the outside. Especially since, with Reagan in office, one might join the "peacetime" Army as Bob's hero did, and wake up the next morning about to be shipped to the front lines! □

S.F. Repertory's New Fall Lineup

In addition to *Blood Knot*, the South African play by Athol Fugard that opened in late September, the San Francisco Repertory Theatre, at 19th and Collingwood Streets, has announced three other plays for production during 1982-83. Three additional plays, rounding out a seven-play season, are still to be announced.

After *Blood Knot* closes Nov. 7, S.F. Rep will produce George Bernard Shaw's *Andræ and the Lion*, followed by *Machinul* by Sophie Treadwell. The season will end with *Diamond Studs*, a musical about Jesse James.

In between will be three plays chosen from a group that includes Franz Xaver Kroetz's *Michu's Bland*, Dario Fo's *Accidental Death of an Anarchist*, John Osborne's *Inadmissible Evidence*, Racine's *Phedre*, and Brecht's *Rise and Fall of the City of Mahagonny*.

Performances run Thursdays through Sundays. Subscriptions for the seven-play series range in price from \$24 to \$60. Call 864-3305 for reservations or information. □

Books for Spooks

Noe Valley Children's Librarian Joan Goldman suggested this October reading list for kids.

Tales and Poems

Teeny Tiny and the Witch Woman
Monster Poems
Nightmares: Poems to Trouble Your Sleep
XII Great Black Cats

Novels

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The Halloween Pumpkin Smasher
Haunting of Julie Unger
Well Met by Witchlight
Witch Water

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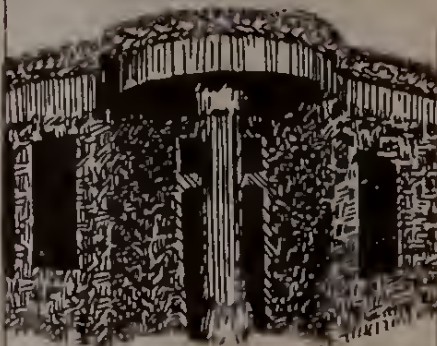
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Jim and Mary Jo Trout and 3-year-old Jesse welcome the arrival of baby Shannon. She was born on June 12 at Mt. Zion Birth Center, though for a while there, Mary Jo was afraid her daughter might be born in the elevator. Brother Jesse enjoys sharing bedtime stories with Shannon, and father Jim imagines her as the next Janet Guthrie of the racing world.

Photos by Irene Kane

Shana Audrey Glick was born on April 22, to parents Sue and Steven. As a first time mother, Sue is encouraged by the variety of support services offered in San Francisco, particularly at Children's Hospital and the Jewish Family and Children's Service Agency. She participated in pre- and post-natal exercise classes as well as parent information groups. Both parents welcome the birth of their "native San Franciscan."



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Michael Gabriel Hanfling was born at home on Diamond Street on April 2. Parents Osha and Robert, sister Seraph, a midwife and several friends attended. The birth was "miraculous and wonderful," says Robert. Though a short labor was fine for Osha and baby, the video crew arrived too late to film. Now the mother of two children, Osha says, "I could do anything after this because I'd have the discipline. It's not simple, but it's fun!" Osha teaches baby massage and yoga for mothers.



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NOE VALLEY CINEMA

Films are shown Fridays at 8 p.m. at the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. All films are \$2 unless otherwise noted. Call 469-8890 for details.

- | | |
|---------|---|
| Oct. 1 | Henry Fonde Tribute: "You Only Live Once." |
| Oct. 8 | Films for Peace—LifeYard project. Seven short films (two animated). |
| Oct. 15 | Ingrid Bergman Tribute: "Stromboli." |
| Oct. 22 | Grege Ketly Tribute: "High Noon." |
| Oct. 29 | Silent Masterpieces of Horror and the Macabre (with Jon Miresells on piano): "Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde" and "West of Zenibar." |

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CALENDAR

Oct. 5: "Big Trees," a slideshow and talk by Florence Holub, following the senior lunch. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 11 a.m.

Oct. 6: Registration for a 14-session weight reduction/control program District Health Center No. 1, 3850 17th St. 6 p.m. \$30. 558-3905.

Oct. 8: "A Cuban Journey," slide/tape show by Verna Pedrin and Nina Serrano. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 282-9246.

Oct. 8 - Nov. 20: Recent works by artist Kelly O. Finnerty. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 285-2788.

Oct. 9: Pre-Halloween maskmaking workshop, sponsored by S.F. Socialist School. At Indoor Fireworks, 3666 26th St. 11 a.m. - 2 p.m. Register by Oct. 8 by calling 221-3333, ext. 153. \$5 donation covers materials.

Oct. 9: Noe Valley Music presents Constance Demby with special guest artists. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. \$6. 282-2317.

Oct. 10: Book launching party for Elaine Elinson and David Kinley, who discuss their new publication *Development Debauch: The World Bank in the Philippines*. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 2-5 p.m. 282-9246.

Oct. 10: LifeYard Dedication, with music, poetry, prayers, potluck, banners and more, all celebrating life. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 4 p.m. 821-9674, 647-0796, 826-8625.

Oct. 10: Open poetry reading, in conjunction with LifeYard anti-nuke protest and celebration. Sponsored by Noe Valley Poetry. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m. \$2.

Oct. 11: Classes begin at S.F. Socialist School, 29 29th St. 221-3333, ext. 153.

Oct. 11: Open poetry reading at Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m. 282-9246.

Oct. 13: "Cheap, Nutritious and Delicious," a cooking/tasting demonstration by Miriam Blaustein and Lynn Fitzwater. Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 7 p.m. Free.

Oct. 13: Benefit for *Coming Up*, featuring comedy by Lea DeLaria. Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St. 9 p.m.



Illustration by Susan Koop

Oct. 14: CANCELLED: meeting of Friends of Noe Valley.

Oct. 14: Music by Swingshift and chuckles by Lea DeLaria at Amelia's, 647 Valencia St. 9 p.m.

Oct. 15: Fall film series of four independent flicks, with filmmaker Candace Reckinger in person. Eye Gallery, 758 Valencia St. 8 p.m. 285-8374.

Through Oct. 16: Calas-y-Otras Cosas. Group exhibition by local artists at Galeria de la Raza, 2851 24th St. Tues. - Sat., 1-6 p.m.

Oct. 16: Jazz with Idris Ackamoor presented by Noe Valley Music. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. \$5. 282-2317.

Oct. 17: Gospel concert with Marshall Summers. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8-10 p.m.

Oct. 17: "Journey Stories," the first in a series of storytelling evenings led by Barry Ring and Carl Smith. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30-9 p.m.

Oct. 19: Children's films at the Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St. 10:30 a.m. (preschoolers) and 4 p.m. (ages 6 and up).

Oct. 19: Canta Tierra performs traditional and contemporary Latin American folk music at Valencia Rose, 766 Valencia St. 8 p.m.

Oct. 22: Author Wendy Lichtman explores sexism in children's literature. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 8 p.m.

Oct. 22: Queen Ida and her Bon Ton Zydeco Band headline a benefit for radio station KALW at Marina Middle School, Fillmore and Bay Streets. 8 p.m. \$5 advance, \$6 door. 648-1177.

Oct. 23: Annual rummage/bake sale to benefit the Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

Oct. 23: "How to Have Fun with Your TV" invades Video Free America. A comedy video and floor show to benefit Second Chakra Productions, 442 Shotwell St. 8 p.m. Donation \$5-\$15. 751-3952.

Oct. 23: Sukay performs music of the Andes as part of the Noe Valley Music series. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8:15 p.m. \$6.

Oct. 24: The Greenwich Piano Trio (cello, piano and violin) perform works by Haydn, Martinu, and Mendelssohn. S.F. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 3 p.m.

Oct. 24: A dialogue on "Economics for Peace." Cafe Metropole, 1361 Church St.

Oct. 24: Poets Louise Nayer and Tim Jacobs, sponsored by Noe Valley Poetry. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 25: Poetry reading with Ralph Dranow and Carla Kandinsky. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St. 7:30 p.m.

Oct. 27: Halloween workshop to build the Haunted House. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 7:30-9:30 p.m. 282-4562.

Oct. 29: A Halloween costumed concert by the S.F. Children's Chorus. S.F. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 7 p.m.

Oct. 30: Halloween Psychic Fair, including tarot readings, storytelling, slideshow with synthesizer, bellydancing. Habitat, 3895 18th St. 12-5 p.m. Wear a costume, get in free (all others pay \$1).

Oct. 30: St. James School Festival, featuring fun, food, frolic. 321 Fair Oaks St. near 24th. 10 a.m.

Oct. 30: "Earth vs. the Flying Saucers," vintage science fiction film, haunts Habitat, 3895 18th St. 8 p.m. \$2.

Oct. 30: Festival of Goblins (adult department) features the Gene Gilbeaux Swing Band, costume awards, refreshments. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 8-10 p.m. \$4.

Oct. 31: Festival of Goblins (children's department) includes costume parade and awards, games, movies, treats, and haunted house. Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St. 3-5 p.m.

Oct. 31: The Ina Chalis Opera Ensemble presents Mozart's "The Magic Flute." S.F. Community Music Center, 544 Capp St. 2 p.m.

Through Oct. 31: Photographic essay on "Carnival '82" by Renée Jones. Modern Times Bookstore, 968 Valencia St.

Through Oct. 31: Paintings and drawings by Theresa de Valence. Cafe Metropole, 1361 Church St.

Through Nov. 7: *Blood Knot* by Athol Fugard. S.F. Repertory Theater, 4147 19th St. Thurs. - Sun., 8 p.m. 864-3305.

The Scoop on CALENDAR

Please send Calendar items before the 15th day of the month preceding month of issue to the *Noe Valley Voice*, 1021 Sanchez St., San Francisco 94114. Items are published on a space-available basis, with Noe Valley neighborhood events receiving priority.

ONGOING EVENTS

Noe Valley Ministry, 1021 Sanchez St., 282-2317

Daily:

- Office hours: Mon.-Fri., 2-7 p.m.
- Scripture and prayer, 8 a.m.
- T'ai chi exercise, 8:30 a.m.
- Noe Valley Co-op Nursery School. 821-9717.
- Draft Registration and C.O. counseling. 282-2317.
- Gallery Sanchez. 282-2317.
- People Against Nuclear Power. 285-2262.

Sundays:

- Poetry, 8 p.m. 282-2978.
- Overeaters Anonymous, 9 a.m. 282-6029.
- Noe Valley Ministry Worship, 10 a.m.
- Junior high youth program, 1st and 3rd Sun., 2-3:30 p.m. With Bethany Methodist Church.

Mondays:

- Movement & ballet, 3:15 p.m. 641-5857.
- Jazz Exercise Dance. Mon., Wed., Thurs., 6:15-7:30 p.m. 282-5835.
- Fanterize. Mon., 6:15 p.m. Thurs., 6 p.m. Sat., 10 a.m. 665-1656.
- Sufi dancing, 8-10 p.m. 285-0562.
- Women for Sobriety, 8-9 p.m. 885-6176.

Tuesdays:

- Movement & ballet, 3:15 p.m. 641-5857.
- Opera workshop, 4 p.m. 282-1874.
- Fit & Fat, 7:30 p.m. 332-1462.
- Mime, 8 p.m. 861-2578.
- Anything Goes Chorus, 7-9 p.m. 654-8415.
- Noe Valley Seniors lunch, Tues., Thurs., 1 p.m.
- Yoga with Elviah, 6-7:30 p.m. 282-7686.
- Girl Scouts, 4-5:30 p.m. 285-2648.

Wednesdays:

- Yoga with Elviah, 7:30-9 p.m. 282-7686.
- Prayer gathering, 5:30 p.m.

Thursdays:

- Yoga class (hring pad), 6 p.m. Free.
- Fat & Fit class, 7:30-8:30 p.m. 333-1462.

Fridays:

- Noe Valley Cinema, 8 p.m. 469-8890.

Saturdays:

- Yoga with Elviah, 8-9 p.m. 282-7686.
- T'ai chi, 10 a.m. 386-7929.
- Noe Valley Music, 8:15 p.m.
- Opera Workshop, 2-4 p.m. 282-1874.

Noe Valley Library, 451 Jersey St., 285-2788

- Noe Valley Community Archives meeting, first Sat. of month, 1 p.m.
- Preschool story hours, Tues., 10:30 a.m. and 1:30 p.m.
- Story hour for older children, Thurs., 4 p.m.
- Community Garden workdays. Call for schedule.
- Through Nov. 20: Recent works by Kelly O. Finnerty.

S.F. Home Health Service, 225 30th St., 285-5615

- Hot lunches daily, noon to 1 p.m.
- Classes in yoga, English, calligraphy, sewing, flower-arranging, Tai Chi Chuan, performing arts. Library, hingo, hilliards. Mon. - Sun.
- Dances with live entertainment, Sun., 1-3 p.m.
- Swimming on Wed. and Thurs. Sign up on Mon.

Bethany United Methodist Church, 1268 Sanchez St., 647-8393

- Sundays: Samoan Methodist Church, 8 a.m. Adult Bible class, 10 a.m. Choir: 10:30 a.m. Worship, 11 a.m. Children's class, 11 a.m. Korean Baptist Church, 1:30 p.m.
- Mon., Wed., Fri.: Aerobic Rhythms, 6-7 p.m.
- Tues. & Wed.: Gymboree, 9-12 a.m., 6-8 p.m. (Wed. only)
- Thursdays: Children observation class, 9:30-11 a.m.
- Fridays and Saturdays: workshops, benefits, plays, potlucks, rummage sales.

Jamestown Community Center, 180 Fair Oaks St., 647-6274

- After-school program for youth in arts and crafts, animal care, tutoring, library, films, recreation for boys and girls, field trips, gymnastics, dances, weightlifting, boxing, wrestling. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
- SOS: Employment and career guidance for youth. Babysitter service. Mon.-Fri., 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. 826-6880.
- DancErgetics: Mon., Wed., 6-7 p.m.
- Los Mayores de Centro Latino senior services. 826-1647.
- Bingo, Thurs., 7-10 p.m.
- Mission Recreation Project. 826-6880.
- Evening recreation: ping-pong, pool, wrestling, boxing.
- Mime, Mon., Wed., 7 p.m.
- Life drawing, Mon., Wed., 7 p.m.
- Batik, Tues., 7 p.m.
- Street theatre workshop, Tues., 7 p.m.
- Rhythm & Motion, Sat., 9:30 and 10:45 a.m.

Options for Women Over Forty, Women's Building, 3543 18th St., 431-6944

- Oct. 13: Monthly meeting. 333 Gough St. 6:30 p.m.
- "Second Start Program." Career/life planning, Tues., Sept. 7 - Oct. 12, 6-8 p.m. Assertiveness Training, Wed., Sept. 8 - Oct. 13, 10 a.m. to noon. Building Self-confidence, Thurs., Sept. 9 - Oct. 14, 6-8 p.m.
- Job Search Techniques, Fri., Sept. 24 - Oct. 29, 10 a.m. to noon.
- Support group for women over 40. Fri., Oct. 1, 8 and 15, 7:30 p.m.
- Oct. 12: Support group for women and alcohol-related problems, open to all women, free. 5-6:30 p.m.
- Women Over 40 Experimental Theatre. Wed., 7 p.m.
- Job listings; thrift store. Open weekdays, 10 to 5.
- Sunday brunch, 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.
- Career counseling by appt. Mon., 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

YMCA, 4080 Mission St., 586-6900

- Senior Center activities: hot lunches daily at noon (75-cent donation); bingo Wed. and Fri., 1 p.m.; Free health nurse and legal aid monthly (call for appt.); classes in square dancing, dressmaking, drawing, painting; day and overnight trips; stamp and coin club monthly. Call for free calendar.
- Fitness class, Tues., Thurs., 6:30-7:30 p.m. 586-6900.

Vets Center, 1708 Waller St., 386-6726

- Vietnam-era veterans outreach program. Walk-in week days, 9 a.m.-5 p.m.

Noe Valley Senior Center, 1021 Sanchez St., 282-2317

- Hot lunches Tues. and Thurs., 1 p.m.
- Exercise Tues. and Thurs., 12:30 p.m.
- Nutrition class, Thurs., 1:30 p.m.

Habitat, 3895 18th St. (at Sanchez)

- Massage for Men, Mon., 7:30 p.m. 864-1209
- Feldenkrais, Mon., 6:15 p.m. 621-3913.
- Stress reduction, Tues., 6 p.m. 849-2912.
- Shiatsu, polarity, psychic healing, Tues., 7:30 p.m. 849-2912.
- Voice classes, Wed., 7:30 p.m. 751-6790.
- Tai Chi, Wed. & Fri., 8 p.m. 863-1980
- Yoga for Gay Men, Thurs., 5:30 p.m.; Sat., 10 a.m. 861-6511